

The Lockdown Logbook

24th March

Guest editor: Corentin B. MP1

Many thanks!

Mood of the day: Reach for the stars

([Interstellar theme song by Hans Zimmer](#))

Video: [Why we need the explorers](#) (Ted Talk, by Brian Cox, physicist and popularizer)

(you can change the subtitles: none, English, French...)

In tough economic times, our exploratory science programs -- from space probes to the LHC -- are first to suffer budget cuts. Brian Cox explains how curiosity-driven science pays for itself, powering innovation and a profound appreciation of our existence.



Article: [A giant star is acting strange, and astronomers are buzzing](#)

(National Geographic)

The red giant Betelgeuse is the dimmest seen in years, prompting some speculation that the star is about to explode. Here's what we know.

Vocabulary

To reach for the stars: To set one's goals or ambitions very high; to try to attain or achieve something particularly difficult.

Where there's a will, there's a way: If one is motivated enough to do something, they will find a way to do it.

Serendipity: a moment of unplanned, fortunate discovery, a chance development or find that has a happy or beneficial effect.

Exercise:

A few questions about Brian Cox's talk: select one picture per question to help you sum up the idea

- Do governments spend too much money on space programs?
- What can be learned about the Earth from studying other planets?
- What have been the unexpected consequences of space exploration?
- How can the universe be considered as having an economic potential?
- Why is serendipity essential in scientific research?
- What may be the most important teaching of space exploration?